

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

The Arizona Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) serves as a reference for public safety officials by describing the status of interoperable communications throughout Arizona and by documenting the specific goals and objectives Arizona has established to improve public safety communications.

Arizona developed the initial version of the SCIP in 2007, beginning with a high-level plan introduced at a Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) meeting in July 2007. After a series of meetings and forums, this SCIP was approved by the Public Safety Communications Advisory Commission (PSCC) in an open meeting on November 28, 2007. In July 2008, oversight of the PSCC transitioned to the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Office of the Arizona Government Information Technology Agency (GITA). The PSIC Office identified the need to update the SCIP in order to address known gaps in the Plan and to document updated approaches to tackling statewide strategic communications initiatives. This updated version of the SCIP was approved by the PSCC in an open meeting on January 19, 2010.

The PSCC, SIEC, and this Plan encourage local participation integral to Arizona's strategic planning efforts in support of interoperable communications. This SCIP addresses the short- and long-term goals of the PSCC and SIEC, and contains the defined and actionable strategies required to implement the vision of interoperability that public safety and service agencies/organizations need in order to protect and serve the citizens of Arizona. The SCIP is divided into five sections:

1. **Introduction** – Introduces and defines the purpose of the Plan.
2. **Background** – Provides an overview of Arizona and its regions to set the context for the rest of the Plan. This overview includes summaries of major geographic, demographic, and infrastructure elements that impact interoperable communications across Arizona. The overview also describes Arizona's regional entities, including counties, tribes, Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) Homeland Security Regions, Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) areas, and police, fire, and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) associations.
3. **Methodology** – Outlines the participatory methodology used to develop the SCIP. Cross-jurisdictional and cross-disciplinary involvement in the development and maintenance of this SCIP is achieved via several mechanisms:
 - a. The PSCC and SIEC hold regular public meetings and workshops to discuss and make recommendations for advancing statewide communications interoperability.
 - b. Standing workgroups of the PSCC and SIEC are tasked to address interoperability issues in detail.
 - c. The PSIC Office supports all of these groups and receives recommendations from them regarding work plans related to the development of systems and strategies for providing interoperability for public safety communications.

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- d. The PSIC Office meets regularly with its State agency partners and also supports a statewide Outreach Program providing regular and effective dialogue with Arizona public safety and service agencies/organizations.
- 4. **Current Statewide Assessment** -- In recent years, Arizona has commissioned and executed several studies to ascertain and document the current status of public safety communications statewide. These studies recognize successful endeavors that could be leveraged moving forward, and identify gaps hindering interoperability that need to be mitigated or rectified through future initiatives and planning efforts. This section synthesizes key findings from these assessments to describe the current status of Arizona's interoperable communications capabilities. Summaries of key findings are divided into five categories:
 - a. Governance – the relationship of the various bodies in the interoperable communications governance structure, including the PSCC, SIEC, and the PSIC Office. Applicable Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) are described.
 - b. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) – the process for developing statewide SOPs, requirements for National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance, and identifying current SOPs for interoperable communications.
 - c. Technology – a summary of the shared systems currently in operation in Arizona, shared channels that are available for public safety use, and gateways and radio caches in Arizona available to enhance interoperability.
 - d. Training & Exercises – guidelines for Arizona's training and exercise opportunities, including Communications Unit Leader (COML) training curriculum and credentialing procedures.
 - e. Usage – information regarding the use of interoperable communications within Arizona generally assessed at a jurisdictional level rather than as an overarching statewide process.
- 5. **Strategy** – lays out Arizona's strategy, both short-term and long-term, for improving interoperable communications by leveraging existing assets, agreements, and funding sources. Funding sources are identified, grant management guidelines are defined, and vision and mission statements for improving interoperability are introduced. Arizona's interoperability goals and objectives are defined, and linked to twelve strategic initiatives.

The SCIP is one of several coordinated blueprint planning efforts which provide the opportunity for all levels of government to come together and consolidate information regarding their communications needs, based on risk-benefit models projecting evolving future requirements. This Plan provides a mechanism for governments to identify shared issues and assess future common needs. Enhanced versions of this Plan look to include new objectives and possibilities for the future.